

REMARKS

Original Claim 1 filed in the parent application Serial No. 09/154,133 has been cancelled without prejudice and new Claim 2 has been added. Specifically, Claim 2 incorporates Claim 1 following clarification that a key may be generated by transforming an existing key without specifying the transformation algorithm.

Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that new Claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the references cited in the parent application and is allowable.

In view of the following amendments and remarks, entry and favorable consideration of new Claim 2, and allowance of the application with Claim 2 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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desired length data encryption key (DEK); 2) sampling an output of a random number generator to assemble a desired length key encryption key (KEK); 3) performing a Diffie-Hellman  $g^{xy}$  exponentiation in order to arrive at a shared secret value; 4) deriving a symmetrical secret key by hashing an application supplied password or passphrase; 5) transforming [a] an existing key [using at least one of hashing, mixing with fixed data and rehashing, and exclusive oring (XORing)]; and 6) importing an unencrypted (RED) key provided by the application; and

representing the generated key in one of an external form and an internal form, the method of managing encryption keys supporting an internally generated storage variable, a local storage variable and a user application generated KEK.--.

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